

Claims:

1. [Currently Amended] A method for quantitatively measuring oxidized and reduced chemical species in either a chemical or biochemical system related to the oxidation-reduction potential of a solution comprising selecting an indicator dye wherein the dye changes electromagnetic absorbance over a range of oxidation-reduction potential related to the species concentration.
2. [Original] The dye of claim 1 wherein said dye is selected from the group consisting of indigo carmine, thionine, potassium indigo trisulfonate, neutral red, potassium indigo tetrasulfonate, and Nile blue.
3. [Original] The dye of claim 2 wherein said dye is indigo carmine.
4. [Currently Amended] The method of claim 1 ~~wherein the~~ wherein the electromagnetic absorbance occurs in the region of electromagnetic spectrum selected from a group consisting of visible, near infrared, infrared and far infrared/
5. [Original] The method of claim 4 wherein said electromagnetic absorbance occurs in the visible region.
6. [Currently Amended] The method of claim 1 wherein the electromagnetic absorbance measurement wavelength is selected from the group consisting of 450 nm, 850 nm, 1310 nm and 1550 nm.
7. [Original] The method of claim 6 wherein said electromagnetic absorbance measurement wavelength is selected from the group consisting of 450 nm and 1550 nm.
8. [Original]. A method of immobilizing said dye of claim 1 comprising, embedding said dye in a matrix.
9. [Original] The method of claim 8 wherein said matrix is selected from the group consisting of gelatin and carrageenan.
- 10 [Currently Amended] A method of quantitatively measuring oxidized and reduced chemical species in either a chemical or biochemical system related to the oxidation-reduction potential of a solution, comprising:
 - selecting an indicator dye;
 - immobilizing said indicator dye on a matrix;
 - contacting the immobilized dye matrix with said solution; and
 - measuring the change in absorbance.

11. [Original] The method of claim 10 wherein said indicator dye is selected from the group consisting of indigo carmine, thionine, potassium indigo trisulfonate, neutral red, potassium indigo tetrasulfonate, and nile blue.
12. [Original] The method of claim 11 wherein said indicator dye is indigo carmine.
13. [Original] The method of claim 10 wherein said matrix is selected from the group consisting of gelatin and carrageenan.
14. [Currently Amended] The method of claim 10 ~~wherein the~~ wherein the absorbance occurs in the region of spectrum selected from a group consisting of visible, near infrared, infrared and far infrared.
15. [Original] The method of claim 14 wherein said absorbance occurs in the visible region.

All of the above changes are cosmetic and none raise any issue of patentability. Both before and after the above changes, the invention was described in full, clear, concise, and exact terms and met all conditions for patentability under 35 USC 101 *et seq.* The scope of the claims of any resulting patent (and any and all limitations in any of said claims) shall not under any circumstances be limited to their literal terms, but are intended to embrace all equivalents.

Accordingly, under no circumstances whatsoever may these claims be interpreted as:

- having been altered in any way for any reason related to patentability;
- having been narrowed;
- a concession that the invention as patented does not reach as far as the original, unamended claim;
- a surrender of any subject matter as a condition of receiving a patent; and/or, estopping applicants from asserting infringement against every equivalent, whether now known or later developed, foreseen or unforeseen;

Applicants also emphasize that the decision to address the Examiner's suggestions via claim amendment with the understandings set forth above is not in any way intended to avoid the "gatekeeping" role of the PTO with regard to the examination and issuance of valid patents for patentable inventions.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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